

NIGERIA

UNHCR WEEKLY UPDATE

23- 30 January 2015

KEY FIGURES

1.5 million IDPs

Internally Displaced People

981,416 IDPs

officially registered IDPs (NEMA)

2,151 Refugees

Refugees and Asylum seekers of mixed nationalities as of 17 January 2015

FUNDING

USD 6,088,647.67

For 2014 Operation (Including the additional requirements for Nigeria Situation)

24% FUNDED



PRIORITIES

- Profiling of IDPs
- Protection monitoring
- Capacity building in CCCM and protection
- Advocacy for policy and legal framework
- Implementation of comprehensive durable solutions for refugees
- Support for RSD

HIGHLIGHTS



- (Photo: Ambassadors and officials at UNHCR/ ECOWAS retreat held at Makurdi, Benue State, Nigeria on the 28-29 January 2015. ©UHNCR)
- The security situation in the country continues to be volatile especially with the approach of the general elections barely two weeks way. Apart from the insurgency and its untold hardships on the population especially in the north – east, where campaign related violence are increasing in scale and scope. A former Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Theophilus Danjuma (rtd.), has called for the arrest of an ex-Niger Delta militants, including Mujahideen Dokubo-Asari and Government Ekpudomenowei (akaTompolo) for threatening to declare war against the nation if President Goodluck loses the February 14 election. It is difficult to know if the threats are coming independent of the political contenders who undertook a peace pact a month ago to conduct the elections in tranquility

At the end of a two day retreat organized by UNHCR for ECOWAS Ambassadors, the following recommendations were made:

- Increase advocacy on the issues of displacement and statelessness
- Encourage those who have not ratified the Conventions to swiftly ratify.
- Emphasize the role of sensitizations in building build political will to ratify, domesticate and implement the Conventions.

Operational Context

- There is increasing concern and fear that the 2015 elections may be characterized by the same degree of violence or even more as was the case in 2011. Following acts of violence registered within the campaign period, diverse and significant reactions have been recorded during the reporting period indicating that the situation is already alarming. The presidency cautioned the main opposition party, All Progressives Congress, APC, to rein its supporters following persistent attacks on the convoy of President Goodluck Jonathan and leaders of the Peoples Democratic Party. The repeated violence was highlighted in Katsina and Bauchi States by alleged supporters of the, APC. In a reaction to what has become a norm rather than an exception, the Special Adviser to the President on Political Affairs, Prof Ahmed Alkali, reminded all political parties in general and the main contending opposition, APC, in particular, that the attitude of their supporters is a negation of the non-violence peace pact signed recently in Abuja by all the parties involved in the elections.
- Against this background, humanitarian actors within the country are updating their contingency plans in view of the prevailing situation. The United Nations also cautioned Nigerians and supporters of political parties to desist from acts susceptible to cause violence in the forthcoming general elections. The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for West Africa, Mohammed Ibn Chambas raised the alarm in an interview with journalists during his courtesy visit to Nigeria's Minister of Foreign Affairs; Amb Aminu Wali. He reiterated that the world cannot afford to see Nigeria slip into a political crisis.
- And if anyone still doubted the reality of imminent violence in Nigeria's forthcoming elections, then the Americans came with an assurance; in a brief but significant meeting with incumbent Goodluck Jonathan and main opposition contender, Mohammadu Buhari, US Secretary of State, John Kerry advised Nigerian politicians to work towards ensuring a peaceful and violence-free general elections in February 2015. In a meeting with the two political bulwarks in Nigeria's commercial capital, Lagos on the 26 January 2015, the US chief diplomat declared and warned that the USA would not hesitate to deny visa to any political office seeker involved in political violence in the country.
- While the Nigerian Military said it was set for what it called 'Final Onslaught' against the insurgents, the extremist group continued with its activities. The information was released on a website that distributes press statements for the Nigerian military and indicated that the Nigerian military is set for a final, and comprehensive onslaught against the extremist group in an operation expected to end before February election. However the insurgents continued with their nefarious activities. Nevertheless, within the week, luck did smile very much on them. Early on the 26 January 2015, nine Soldiers lost their lives in a pitched battle over Maiduguri as the insurgents sought to fulfill their overdue plan of making the Borno state capital, headquarters of a Caliphate. The attack came less than 12 hours after President Goodluck Jonathan Presidential Campaign team left Maiduguri. In yet another attack, the reportedly Insurgents raided Adamawa Villages, killing scores and burning several houses. Six villages in Michika local government area of Adamawa State suffered destruction of various degrees. There is increasing evidence that the insurgents will intensify attacks during the elections.

IDP Operation

- UNHCR led Protection Sector Working Group (PSWG) meetings held on January 23rd and 26th, during which inputs provided by PSWG members and observers to the draft protection strategy and action plan was discussed. Following the comprehensive review of these documents, the PSWG adopted the protection strategy and action plan at the technical level on 26 January 2015. The strategy will be endorsed and implemented for the complex situation in Nigeria. Key goals of the strategy include: achieving a common understanding of protection issues in Nigeria and achieving a more coordinated and effective protection response in insurgency-affected areas, ethno-religious conflict, and other situations of displacement and grave human rights concerns.

- On the sidelines of the ECOWAS Ambassadors retreat, UNHCR senior staff from its regional office in Dakar Senegal, held discussions with ECOWAS officials on the ongoing preparations for the forthcoming regional conference on statelessness planned for Abidjan- Cote D'Ivoire from the 23- 25 February 2015. The discussions aimed at ensuring that both UNHCR and ECOWAS were on the same footing regarding the preparations and also fast-track preparatory issues which were still lagging behind. At the end of the meeting both parties agreed on the necessity to harmoniously work together in view of the importance of the conference expected to be attended by some Heads of States and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.
- On the joint invitation of the UNHCR Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, and the Ambassador of Benin to Nigeria and ECOWAS and the Coordinator of ECOWAS Ambassadors, in close collaboration with ECOWAS Commission, the Ambassadors of ECOWAS Member States gathered in Makurdi, in Benue State, Republic of Nigeria on 28th and 29th January for the 5th Edition of the Retreat of ECOWAS Ambassadors to discuss the theme: "Let's unite to fight forcible Displacement and Statelessness. We can do a lot with little." During the retreat, participants deliberated on the presentations made in the following segments: Retreat objectives and the expected outcome; Status of UNHCR-ECOWAS cooperation; Overview of the status and ratification of the Kampala Convention in West Africa; Overview of the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness; Country review of UNHCR programs in West Africa; Overview of the humanitarian situation in West Africa; and the way forward to strengthen working relations between ECOWAS Ambassadors and UNHCR.

The following recommendations resulted from the retreat:

- ✓ Increase advocacy on the issues of displacement and statelessness.
 - ✓ Encourage those who have not ratified the Conventions to swiftly ratify.
 - ✓ Emphasize the role of sensitizations to build political will to ratify, domesticate and implement the Conventions.
 - ✓ Need to push for the implementation of the biometric ID card, which should take the place of the travel document for members of the sub-region and will aid all ECOWAS citizens, including persons of concern to UNHCR.
 - ✓ Ensure that all ECOWAS countries participate in the 23-25 February 2015 Abidjan Regional Ministerial Conference on Statelessness.
 - ✓ Increase involvement of civil society organizations in joint UNHCR-ECOWAS activities.
 - ✓ Develop an ECOWAS program on combatting statelessness.
 - ✓ Develop response frameworks so that the pursuit of livelihoods and self-reliance for refugees will be initiated at the earliest stage of a refugee crisis in the sub-region.
- At the end of the retreat, participants expressed their deep appreciation to the Government of Nigeria, represented by the Executive Governor of Benue State, His Excellency, Hon. Dr. Gabriel T. Suswam, and the people of Makurdi City for the hospitality accorded participants and hosting the retreat for the second consecutive time. The Retreat was attended by ambassadors and diplomats from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, African Union and Finland, as well as representatives from ECOWAS Community Court of Justice, ECOWAS Parliament, and National Human Rights Institutions in West Africa, ECOWAS Commission, IOM Nigeria and UNHCR staff from RBA, RRWA and Nigeria.
- On the 29 January 2015 UNHCR Bauchi participated at a meeting focusing on the 2015 General Elections Risk preparedness organized by SEMA Bauchi. The meeting aimed at putting together the Bauchi State Humanitarian Coordination Team (SHCT) for emergency Planning requirements in view of the 2015 February general elections. The meeting highlighted the necessity of producing a coherent plan that will take into consideration the impact of potential crisis in relation to elections. The CP for Bauchi will ensure that sufficient capacity, predictable leadership, strengthened accountability, improved coordination and prioritization of actions are harmonized at the level of Bauchi metropolis and at all LGAs in an effective and efficient manner. Due to time constraints, humanitarian

stakeholders were requested to provide contribution in their competent thematic areas of expertise. SEMA BAUCHI by 3 February 2015.

- In its publication on 30 for January, OCHA Nigeria reiterates that attacks on communities in the northeast Nigeria have been occurring at almost a daily pace since January 2015. Humanitarian actors have finalized electoral risk preparedness plan targeting 1.8 million people for response. Households in areas worst Households in areas affected by insurgency in the northeast to face acute food insecurity, from January to July 2015 according to FEWS NET. NEMA is currently managing 22 camps, 100,000 children are at risk of severe acute malnutrition (UNICEF), and 600 houses have been completely razed down in Baga by the insurgents. (Amnesty Intl.) The Humanitarian Country Team has prioritized the strengthening of the sectors for appropriate, effective, efficient, and coherent delivery of humanitarian services in the light of increasing insurgency. A Coordination Capacity Matrix has been set up to support coordination of the nine sectors led by government agencies and co-led by the UN. The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) on Thursday January 29 delivered 540 metric tonnes of assorted relief items including food items and non food items approved by the Federal Government to Nigerian refugees in the Republic of Niger who are taking shelter in different locations in the Diffa region. The refugees had fled as a result of recent attacks by the insurgents in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States. The Red Cross Movement is supporting the Nigerian Red Cross (NRCS) with improved emergency response strategies and equipment. Over 200 Red Cross volunteers in the north east have been trained and its warehouses have been stocked with contingency relief items. The Nigerian Red Cross is actively engaged in CCCM activities at the camps as well as awareness campaigns as part of its emergency preparedness
- The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) on the 25 January 2015 said 5,000 persons displaced as a result of the capture of Monguno by insurgents have been registered at a newly established camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Maiduguri. The information officer of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Northeast Zonal office, AbdulKadir Ibrahim, said a near completed housing estate has been donated by Borno State government to house the IDPs. Mr.Ibrahim said many more people are still being expected to find their way into the town, stating that 2,000 persons have arrived and 3,000 were still expected. He disclosed that the housing estate volunteered by the government is along Gubio road on the outskirts of Maiduguri. Attacked and captured Monguno, a town in the northern part of troubled state on 24 January 2015. The insurgents have since occupied the Army barrack in the town and hoisted their flags at strategic locations in the town to signify its capture. The soldiers deployed to the town had fled to Maiduguri including all the residents of the town who were helpless. As at last count, the insurgents had captured over half of the landmark of the state. Meanwhile, the curfew imposed in Maiduguri after attack by the insurgents was lifted on 25 January. The residents are however apprehensive that the insurgents could attack the town again having gained mileage on the town with the capture of Monguno, which is 125 kilometers away from Maiduguri. Monguno, remains the largest town to Maiduguri towards the North.
- More and more organizations as well as personalities are expressing concern about the plight of IDPs with regards to their effective participation in the general elections. A non-governmental organization (NGO), One-Nigerian Initiative, on the 26 January appealed to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) not to disenfranchise voters living in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps during the February elections. Also, a human rights activist under the auspices of Human Rights Monitor, Mr Festus Okoye, said candidates, parties and their leaders must tone down their rhetoric and allow the people, including internally displaced persons, to make rational and informed choices in the coming polls. Okoye said in as much as the same electoral body permitted party primaries of governorship and legislative candidates to hold outside Borno, Yobe and Adamawa, the same gesture should be extended to IDPs in their respective camps across the federation. He made this statement at a press conference where the political parties and their candidates must realize that there must be a country before they can have political parties and candidates He charged the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to rise up to its responsibilities in monitoring the conduct of the parties and their candidates. It should be recalled that the United States, the UN, ECOWAS and other individuals have been insisting that effective measures be taken to ensure the participation of IDPs

- An executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund, Mr. Anthony Lake, has raised the alarm on the insurgency attacks targeting students and teachers in schools in northern Nigeria. Mr. Lake said between 2013 and now, more than 200 teachers and 300 students had been killed in terrorist attacks in the north, while at least 338 schools had been destroyed. Lake wrote in an opinion piece in Kenya's *Mail and Guardian* that the insurgents "show no signs of stopping as they increasingly target innocent children – and education." He said, "The persistent threat of violence has disrupted the education of hundreds of thousands of students. And the unrelenting violence has traumatized thousands of children who have been witness to, and victims of these horrors in the region." According to him, the use of children as suicide bombers who target schools and particularly the case of the schoolgirls kidnapped by insurgents since April 14, 2014 calls for great concern. He said, "In November (2014), another child was sent into the morning assembly at a school on a suicide mission, killing 48 pupils. In February, an attack on a college killed 45 pupils, some as young as 13. "Innocent children, women and elderly people – who cannot protect themselves – were massacred. Village after village has been burned to the ground. And three young girls were sent to their deaths with explosives strapped to their bodies in so-called suicide bombings that killed scores of civilians. "Over the past week, I hope you saw these news reports from northern Nigeria. For these are not random acts of brutality. The violence in northern Nigeria is constant. Attacks that leave hundreds dead and wounded are a near-daily occurrence. It's been happening in Borno state for months." According to him, the future of Africa depends on the future of Nigeria as what affects Nigeria also affects neighboring countries.

Refugee Operation

NTR

External Relations

- NTR:

Funding Requirements (Funding level and data to be reviewed in the next update)

Funding Situation

Request = \$23,279,882.33 (Pillar 1 = \$ 4,076,902.33 and Pillar 4 = \$ 19,202,980.00)

Funding = \$8,997,075.00 (Pillar 1 = \$ 2,228,789.00 and Pillar 4 = \$ 6,768,286.00) = 39%

Gap = \$ 14,282,807.33 (Pillar 1 = \$ 1,848,113.33 and Pillar 4 = \$ 12,434,694.00) = 61%

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